

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2625

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2399

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS USCINCEUR FOR INFO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: USG PUBLIC POSTURE ON ELECTIONS/SOCIALIST PARTY ATTITUDES

REF: LISBON 2396; LISBON 2398

1. MANUEL SA MACHADO, CHIEF OF CABINET TO SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER MARIO SOARES, SOUGHT OUT DCM LATE AFTERNOON APRIL 26. PURPOSE WAS TO PASS TO US INFORMALLY SOARES'S VIEW OF ELECTIONS RESULTS AND HIS TACTICS FOR FUTURE.

2. SA MACHADO SAID SOCIALISTS, ALONG WITH EVERYONE ELSE IN PORTUGUESE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, INTERPRETED ELECTIONS AS CLEAR VICTORY FOR SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) AND SOARES PERSONALLY. REALITY WAS THERE FOR ALL TO SEE, SAID SA MACHADO, AND POLITICAL FORCES-- ABOVE ALL THE AFM--WOULD BE DRAWING CONCLUSIONS FROM IT. BUT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THESE CONCLUSIONS BE DRAWN OVER TIME, THAT THE RESULTS BE ALLOWED TO SINK IN, AND THAT POLITICAL LEADERS ANALYZE THE RESULTS COLDLY, SA MACHADO SAID.

3. SA MACHADO SAID THAT THE PS AT PRESENT WAS WORRIED ABOUT  
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THE IMPACT OF ITS SMASHING VICTORY UPON THE AFM. SOCIALISTS

SIMPLY DID NOT KNOW HOW AFM WOULD REACT. IN VIEW OF THIS, SOARES HAD DECIDED NOT TO GLOAT PUBLICALLY OVER SOCIALIST VICTORY, BUT TO USE IT WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND, ABOVE ALL, IN HIS (AND HIS COLLEAGUES) MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL.

4. SA MACHADO SAID THAT SOARES HAD DECIDED TO REJECT OUT OF HAND EXPECTED COMMUNIST OFFER FOR JOINT ACTION PROGRAM. THERE WILL BE NO UNITY WITH THE PCP, ALTHOUGH THE SOCIALISTS WILL NOT MAKE ANTI-PCP NOISES IN PUBLIC. LIKEWISE, ACCORDING TO SA MACHADO, THE SOCIALISTS WILL NOT MAKE ANY FORMAL ALLIANCE WITH THE POPULAR DEMOCRATS. WHAT SOARES INTENDS TO DO IS EMPHASIZE SOCIALIST INDEPENDENCE AND POPULAR STRENGTH, WHILE CONTINUING TO BUILD THE PARTY'S MASS BASE.

5. FUNDAMENTAL FACTOR IN SOCIALIST THINKING IS HOW TO INFLUENCE THE AFM AND LEADERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. SOCIALISTS ARE FRANK TO ADMIT THEY DON'T HAVE THE ANSWERS, SA MACHADO INDICATED; HENCE THEIR WORRY.

6. SA MACHADO ALSO PROVIDED INSIGHT IN CURRENT SOCIALIST VIEW OF LEADING MILITARY FIGURES. QUERIED AS TO HOW LEADING MILITARY FIGURES SAW THIS SOCIALIST TRIUMPH, SA MACHADO GAVE FOLLOWING OPINION: (A) COSTA GOMES--DELIGHTED; (B) GONCALVES--VERY UNHAPPY, BET ON THE WRONG HORSE IN THE MDP; (C) ROSA COUTINHO--AN INTRIGUING QUESTION. SOCIALISTS, HOWEVER, WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITH ROSA COUTINHO. SA MACHADO TOLD US THAT SHORTLY BEFORE ELECTION, WHEN ROSA COUTINHO WAS TOUTING "NEW PARTY" BETWEEN PS AND PCP, MARIO SOARES DREW HIM ASIDE AFTER A MEETING AND SAID: "ADMIRAL, WHY ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AN OUT-OF-TUNE BASS FIDDLE WHEN I CAN OFFER YOU A STRADIVARIUS?" ROSA COUTINHO DID NOT ANSWER, BUT CLEARLY SOCIALISTS BELIEVE THEY CAN WORK WITH HIM.

7. COMMENT: SOARES'S POSTURE REINFORCES MY VIEW EXPRESSED REFTELS THAT USG SHOULD STRESS VICTORY FOR THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN PORTUGAL (HONESTY OF VOTE, LARGE TURNOUT, POLITICAL MATURITY, AFM FULFILLMENT OF PROMISE OF FREE ELECTIONS) AND AVOID EMBRACING VICTORIOUS PARTIES.

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USCINCEUR.

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## Message Attributes

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